

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

INFO CINCPAC PRIORITY

COMUSMACTHAI PRIORITY

COMUSJAPAN PRIORITY

TDC PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

S E C R E T STATE 154313

EXDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MILI, TW, TH, JA

SUBJECT: REDEPLOYMENT OF C-130 SQUADRONS FROM TAIWAN

1. BY AUGUST 15 ONE SQUADRON OF C-130 AIRCRAFT FROM THE
374TH TACTICAL AIRLIFT WING (TAW) WILL BE REDEPLOYED FROM
CHING CHUNG KAN (CCK) AIRBASE ON TAIWAN. (FYI - A SQUAD-
RON NORMALLY COMPRISES 16 AIRCRAFT.) SIX OF THESE AIR-
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CRAFT ARE PRESENTLY DEPLOYED IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND WILL
REMAIN IN THAILAND AFTER AUGUST 15. THE REMAINING C-130'S
IN THE SQUADRON (THOSE BASED AT CCK) WILL BE RETURNED TO
THE US.

2. REMAINING THREE SQUADRONS OF THE 374TH TAW WILL BE SUCCESSIVELY RELOCATED IN THEATER WITH REDEPLOYMENT FROM TAIWAN TO BE COMPLETED BY DECEMBER 31. FURTHER INFORMATION CONCERNING MOVEMENT OF THESE SQUADRONS WILL BE SENT TO ADDRESSEE POSTS AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE.

3. IT HAS NOT YET BEEN DETERMINED WHETHER ANY PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE MADE CONCERNING THESE REDEPLOYMENTS. NO ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE MADE, HOWEVER, PRIOR TO MOVEMENT OF THE FIRST SQUADRON. NOR WOULD SUCH AN ANNOUNCEMENT MENTION OUR INTENTION TO WITHDRAW THE REMAINDER OF THE 374TH TAW.

4. DEFENSE WILL BE INSTRUCTING APPROPRIATE COMMANDS ON THIS MOVEMENT. EMBASSIES TAIPEI AND BANGKOK SHOULD ENSURE COORDINATED APPROACHES.

5. FOR AMEMBASSY TAIPEI: EMBASSY SHOULD SEEK AN APPOINTMENT WITH APPROPRIATE ROC OFFICIAL (PERHAPS PREMIER CHIANG CHING-KUO) AT EARLIEST PRACTICABLE OPPORTUNITY TO INFORM ROC OF OUR INTENTION TO WITHDRAW ONE SQUADRON OF C-130'S BY AUGUST 15. YOU MAY SPECIFY THAT SIX OF THE SQUADRON'S AIRCRAFT WILL REMAIN IN THAILAND, WITH REST RETURNING TO US. IN INFORMING ROC OF THIS MOVEMENT, YOU SHOULD STATE THAT THIS WITHDRAWAL IS RESULT OF REDUCED TENSIONS IN THE AREA AND CONTINUING REDUCTION OF OUR MILITARY PRESENCE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. YOU MAY ADD THAT CONSISTENT WITH FOREGOING OUR PRESENT PLANS CALL FOR REDEPLOYMENT FROM TAIWAN OF THE REMAINING THREE SQUADRONS OF THE WING BY DECEMBER 31 AS PART OF A GRADUAL REDUCTION OF OUR FORWARD TACTICAL UNITS. WE WILL PROVIDE THEM WITH FURTHER DETAILS AS OUR PLANS DEVELOP. YOU SHOULD REMIND ROC THAT WE WISH THIS INFORMATION TO BE HELD CLOSELY, PENDING ANY PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT.

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6. FOR AMEMBASSY BANGKOK: SINCE SIX C-130'S OF SQUADRON TO BE WITHDRAWN FROM TAIWAN ARE ALREADY LOCATED IN THAILAND, YOU SHOULD NOT RPT NOT APPROACH THE RTG ABOUT THIS DEPLOYMENT. IF ASKED, YOU SHOULD SIMPLY ACKNOWLEDGE THE REMOVAL OF THE SQUADRON FROM TAIWAN AND THE FACT THAT SIX AIRCRAFT WILL REMAIN IN THAILAND.

7. FOR AMEMBASSY TOKYO: EMBASSY SHOULD INFORM APPROPRIATE GOJ OFFICIALS OF IMPENDING MOVEMENT OF THE ONE C-130 SQUADRON AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY. YOU MAY SPECIFY OUR PLANS FOR RETENTION OF SIX OF THE AIRCRAFT IN THAILAND AT THIS TIME, WITH REMAINDER RETURNING TO THE US. ALTHOUGH OBLIGATED EVENTUALLY TO INFORM THE

GOJ OF THE BALANCE OF THE TAIWAN DRAWDOWN, EMBASSY SHOULD NOT DO SO AT THIS TIME. ONCE GOJ BUDGET PROCESS IS A BIT FURTHER ALONG, INSTRUCTIONS FOR CONSULTING WITH GOJ WILL BE FURNISHED. THE JAPANESE SHOULD ALSO BE REMINDED OF OUR WISH THAT THIS INFORMATION BE HELD IN CONFIDENCE UNTIL A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT IS MADE (PARA 3).

8. FOR AMEMBASSY MANILA: YOU WILL BE INFORMED AS OUR PLANS UNFOLD ON THE EXTENT TO WHICH CLARK AIRBASE MAY BE INVOLVED IN THE RELOCATION OF THE TAW.

ROGERS

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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TAIPEI
TOKYO INFO CINCPAC
COMUSMACTHAI
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HONG KONG

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